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Approved For Release 2007/03/06 : CIA-RDP79B00864A001400010019-6

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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

OCI #0602/74

24 July 1974

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Czechoslovak-Austrian Claims Negotiations Expected to Resume

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Chnoupek has invited Austrian Foreign Minister Bielka-Karltreu to visit Brno on July 24. According to an official of the Austrian Foreign Office, the purpose of the visit is to discuss the resumption of claims negotiations concerning nationalized Austrian property. Last June, negotiations produced an agreed text save for the amount of compensation due Austria. Before differences could be fully resolved, however, a series of border incidents led to the talks being suspended.

Recent Czechoslovak progress toward normalizing relations with the FRG and US has reportedly encouraged both Vienna and Prague to try again. Both governments want to raise diplomatic representation from legation to ambassadorial level and to establish a joint commission to deal with border incidents. These actions will, however, have to wait until the substantial differences are resolved between the amount of compensation requested and the amount offered.

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State Dept. review completed

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